



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tule Lake Unit,  
World War II  
Valor in the Pacific  
National Monument

PO Box 1240  
Tulelake, CA 96134

Mike Reynolds  
Superintendent  
530-667-8101  
mike\_reynolds@nps.gov

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# Tule Lake Unit, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Remembrance of Executive Order 9066

TULELAKE, California— The Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument would like to share in the remembrance of one of America's greatest failures related to constitutional and civil liberties. The incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds U.S. citizens, without trial in ten guarded, barb-wire enclosed camps because of what Congress later admitted was racism, wartime hysteria, and failure of political leadership. February 19<sup>th</sup> is the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Executive Order 9066 being signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, authorizing this unjust incarceration of U.S. citizens without due process of law. It is an important historical note that not one Japanese American was ever convicted of a crime against the United States during WWII.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in a recent talk to a group of law students discussing court cases related to this period said, "*Korematsu v. United States* (a US Supreme Court case that tested EO 9066 during WWII) was wrong... But you are kidding yourself if you think the same thing will not happen again." Scalia explained, "In times of war, the laws fall silent... It was wrong, but I would not be surprised to see it happen again, in time of war. It's no justification, but it is the reality."

"The purpose of National Park Service sites like the Tule Lake Unit, is to educate the American public on the good and the bad of nationally recognized stories. We provide the kind of classroom to learn about the significance of these stories and how these past events can affect the future of our country," says Superintendent Mike Reynolds.

During the winter months, tours of the Tule Lake Unit can be arranged by calling the Lava Beds Visitor Center at 530-667-8113, reservations generally need to be made two weeks in advance and are based on staff availability.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, established in 2008, is a nationally significant site dedicated to telling the story of the cost of war on the home front and the lasting effects of the unjust incarceration of over 29,000 US citizens and long-term residents of Japanese ancestry at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-260-0537, email [tule\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tule_interpretation@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/tule](http://www.nps.gov/tule).

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